

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 IO-13 TRSE-00 MCT-01 /064 W
-----171704Z 084233 /47

O R 171611Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2875
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR XF PLO
SUBJ: PNC: MARCH 16

1. MARCH 16, FIFTH DAY OF PNC, MARKED BY CONTINUED BICKERING.
AGENDA WAS SUSPENDED DUE TO JUMBLATT ASSASSINATION.

2. MORNING SESSION. BY ALL REPORTS, REJECTIONISTS TRADED HARSH
WORDS WITH CHAIRMAN ARAFAT AND OTHER MODERATES. PRESS REPORTS
LIST SHAFIQ AL-HUT, BASIL AQL (FATAH) AND JAMAL SURANI (FATAH)
AS POSSIBLE NEW EXCOMM MEMBERS. FAYIZ SAYIGH IS REPORTED
TO HAVE DISCOURSED ON "ESCALATING ENMITY" OF USG WHICH MAKES
POLITICAL SETTLEMENT "INFEASIBLE" IN FORSEEABLE FUTURE.

3. EVENING. WHEN NEWS OF JUMBLATT ASSASSINATION REACHED ASSEMBLY
HALL, NEWSMEN WERE INVITED TO HEAR EULOGIES FROM VARIOUS PAL-
ESTINIAN NOTABLES. FBIS HAS TEXTS OF MANY OF THESE
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IMPROMPTU SPEECHES. WHILE MOST, INCLUDING QADDUMI, FLUNG
ACCUSATIONS AT ZIONISM AND AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, FATAH'S CAIRO
REP RIBHI AWAD SUGGESTED EMOTIONALLY: "WHO KNOWS? THE MURDERER
MAY BE SITTING AMONG US". VOICE OF PALESTINE HAS BEEN
BROADCASTING THESE TAPES ALL DAY.

4. COMMENT: ONLY NOTABLE QUOTE COMING OUT OF PNC YESTERDAY

WAS QADDUMI'S REPORTED STATEMENT THAT THERE IS NO QUESTION OF CHANGING THE CHARTER --- "IT IS INCONCEIVABLE THAT THE STUBBORNNESS OF THE ZIONISTS AND THE AMERICANS SHOULD BE WELCOMED BY PALESTINIAN FLEXIBILITY". THUS IN NUTSHELL IS EMERGING MODERATE CONSENSUS. REJECTIONISTS CONTINUE RULE OUT FLEXIBILITY WHETHER OR NOT "ZIONISTS AND AMERICANS" BECOME LESS "STUBBORN".

5. MORNING MARCH 17, NEWS OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S MASSACHUSETTS SPEECH BEGAN TO SPREAD. PNC SPOKESMAN HAS TOLD PRESS THAT ARAFAT TOLD PNC THAT PRESIDENT'S REMARKS HAVE BEEN "WELCOMED" AND HE HOPED THEY WILL BE FOLLOWED THROUGH. WE CAN EXPECT MORE OFFICIAL PLO REACTION IN NEAR FUTURE. OUR EGYPTIAN CONTACTS TELL US THAT NEWS OF USG SUPPORT FOR A "PALESTINIAN HOMELAND" HAS STUNNED PALESTINIANS, MANY OF WHOM STILL UNABLE TO BELIEVE IT TRUE. ALREADY THERE IS LESS CORRIDOR TALK, WE ARE TOLD, ABOUT US PLOT TO KILL JUMBLATT (AND THUS DIVIDE ARABS, ETC) WHICH FILLED THE AIR LAST NIGHT. PRESUMABLY PRESIDENT'S REMARKS HAS ALSO TAKEN WIND OUT OF FAYIZ SAYIGH'S POLITICAL SAILS AS WELL. MATTHEWS

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